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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (see General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, annex), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the work programme of the Unit for 1992 and preliminary work programme for 1993-1994.

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* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit

The following work programme was drawn up in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 31/192 of 22 December 1976, and takes into account the guidelines laid out in Assembly resolutions 42/218 of 21 December 1987, 43/221 of 21 December 1988, 44/184 of 19 December 1989 and 45/237 of 21 December 1990 and decision 46/446 of 20 December 1991. The work programme is divided into two sections: section I lists the Unit's work programme for 1992, and section II indicates those studies which the Unit contemplates undertaking after the current year. As hitherto, the work programme is subject to change in the course of the year; new studies may be added and planned studies may be modified, postponed or cancelled, when circumstances warrant. Titles may be changed to reflect the new thrust of studies.

I. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1992

A. Studies on management, programme and policy issues

(a) Assessment of the impact of contributions made by the organizations of the United Nations system to the advancement of women in the last two decades - 1970 to 1990

The study will review the concrete achievements of the organizations of the United Nations system with respect to the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985), as well as progress since the Nairobi Conference, with a view to identifying mechanisms to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in United Nations activities and programmes related to women.

(b) Use of balances in the United Nations system (cash and budgetary surpluses)

The study will make a comparative review and analysis of the policies, procedures and practices related to the cash and budgetary surpluses of the regular budget of the organizations of the United Nations system, covering the last two budgetary periods. It is part of a follow-up of two JIU studies, "Cash management in the United Nations and four specialized agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization)" (JIU/REP/86/6) and "Budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/89/9, vols. I and II).

(c) Management of buildings in the United Nations system

The study will examine buildings and building management practices in certain organizations of the United Nations system and draw conclusions therefrom.

(d) Towards a network of library information services of the United Nations system

The study will review the progress achieved in modernization of the major libraries of the United Nations system since 1984 and, in particular, implementation of relevant recommendations contained in the JIU comprehensive report "Cooperation between and management of libraries of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/84/1). It will also examine plans for further modernization of some of the United Nations libraries and the general trend towards a network of library information services. Recommendations on progress and cost-effective utilization of modern equipment and effective cooperation of the libraries will be made.

(e) Managing works of art in the United Nations

Over the years, the United Nations has acquired important and valuable cultural properties. In many cases these have neither been valued, nor has a conservation policy been adopted for their protection. The study would identify the ingredients of a rational acquisition/deacquisition policy and recommend an effective programme for the conservation of the cultural property of the Organization.

(f) United Nations peacemaking and peace-keeping operations

The study will review the role of the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as evidenced by certain of its peace-keeping operations. The institutional, administrative and financial consequences of the role of the United Nations will be addressed, as well as the impact of those conflicts on development efforts, human rights and social progress.

(g) Review of the Economic Commission for Europe

The role and structure of the Economic Commission for Europe will be analysed in the light of the mandates and activities of the other European regional economic organizations and in the context of developments in the region.

(h) The performance of early-warning systems for emerging major issues

The study, which is intended as a follow-up to the study (JIU/REP/90/2) on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee

flows, will review the United Nations system's performance in providing early warning for emerging major issues also in the economic, social and security areas.

(i) The managerial capacity of the Secretary-General to enhance coordination of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields

The study will look at ways and means of enhancing the managerial capacity of the Secretary-General to coordinate the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The respective roles and functions of the concerned departments and programmes will be reviewed (Department for International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Department for Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), etc.) and options for administrative structural changes will be proposed.

(j) Career development of United Nations staff, with due emphasis on training and mobility

The study will analyse the present situation where career development prospects vary widely from one department or organization to another offering unequal opportunities to the staff. Training and mobility opportunities will be discussed since these are important factors in career development.

B. Development cooperation

(a) United Nations system cooperation with non-governmental organizations: operational and management issues

In recent years non-governmental organizations have become more and more important participants in international development work, especially at the field level, and many United Nations system agencies are reassessing or creating substantial new relationships with these non-governmental organizations. This study will explore ways and means of strengthening cooperation, particularly in implementing field-level programmes dealing with both development and relief/humanitarian activities.

(b) A review of the specific development needs of small Member States and the responsiveness of the United Nations development system in meeting those needs

The study would suggest improved measures to identify activities corresponding to the needs and interests of small Member States. The study would be developed around three main issues: the mechanisms and channels developed by the United Nations system; how small Member States can better

organize themselves to overcome the handicap of a shortage of human resources; and how such countries can ensure their effective presence and participation in United Nations activities.

(c) The revised round-table process

The objective of the study would be to review the system of UNDP round tables for the least developed countries, with a view to making recommendations that would enhance benefits for both donor and recipient countries. The scope of the study would include the examination of preparations, procedures and structures for the round-table negotiations, implementation procedures, the participation and role of specialized agencies, the mobilization of the capacities of the United Nations system, as well as coordination arrangements.

(d) A comparative study of decentralization

The governing bodies of most United Nations system organizations have been calling for increased decentralization. Secretariats have responded in different ways based on their mandates, structures and budgets, among other influences. The aim of the study would be to move beyond conceptualization and organization and deal with the practical, operational problems of decentralization, such as delegation of authority, communications and information flow, staffing rotation and training, maintaining programme coherence, feedback, Headquarters support and responsiveness.

(e) Technology transfer and the United Nations system a/

In an increasingly technical world, the transfer of technology from the developed to the developing world is recognized as crucial to the transformation of the economies of the lesser developed countries. The present study would aim at assessing existing capacities within the United Nations system - institutional, financial, managerial - to deal with the transfer of technology.

(f) An evaluative assessment of the technical cooperation programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) a/

This study is the second part of a review which the Council of ICAO requested JIU to make in April 1991. The first report (JIU/REP/91/6) assessed the factors and possible solutions relating to annual operating deficits of the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau. This second study addresses longer-term operational and management issues to enable ICAO to have a more flexible, efficient, and effective technical cooperation organization, geared to operating in a complex and rapidly-changing development environment.

(g) Analysis of the UNDP role and impact on technical cooperation among developing countries in Latin America

The report will review the status of technical cooperation among developing countries in a region where many economic cooperation associations have been at work for many decades. It will analyse the performance of UNDP in fostering this process.

(h) Sharing of common premises and services at the field level

This study will follow up on the study (JIU/REP/86/1) on field representation and more recent studies prepared by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions and the Department for International Economic Cooperation.

II. PRELIMINARY STUDIES FOR THE 1993-1994 WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Rationalization of the structure of the United Nations dealing with peace-keeping operations

The study will explore the need for and ways and means of altering the current structure of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with peace-keeping operations, with a view to eliminating its current fragmentation and improving its efficiency.

(b) Coordination in the United Nations system

The study will review who does what in the field of coordination in the United Nations system and possible measures to reduce overlap in mandates and wastage of time and resources. Coordination functions will be studied at the country, regional and global levels. The respective roles of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Economic and Social Council will also be analysed.

Notes

a/ Evaluation study.